

Academic Planning Bulletin #21
Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Hello all,

It is hard to believe that we have so quickly reached the end of the fall semester! This semester has been particularly full with many successful academic, student orientation, athletic, performing art and fund raising activities, as well as the launching of three new degree and two new diploma programs.

Review and Updating of the Academic Plan

At the start of term I indicated that it was time to begin the process of reviewing and updating our Academic Plan, as the majority of the goals in our current plan have been accomplished and significant environmental change (e.g. re-allocation of some of the promised 1500 fte to universities) has occurred. A proposed process for reviewing and updating the Academic Plan has now been reviewed and adopted by VPAC and SMT. This process has been designed to give all members of the college community as many opportunities as possible to inform the development of an Academic Plan for the period 2009/10 to 2011/12.

Opportunities for Involvement in the Planning Process

A key element in any planning process is completion of an in-depth environmental scan that assesses available resources and anticipated future environmental impacts. This work is currently being done by our Institutional Research Office in conjunction with the members of VPAC. Once this scan is completed it will be posted on the VPAC web page and provision will be made for members of the college community to electronically provide feedback regarding the implications that command our attention. Detailed information about how to respond electronically will be provided once the environmental scan is posted.

At the same time as we are gathering feedback to the environmental scan, members of the Faculties and the Student Development Department will be asked to gather feedback from all relevant stakeholders; e.g. post-secondary partners, local school districts, industry representatives, Advisory Committees, etc. to determine the current and future needs of the communities that we serve. At the same time, VPAC will meet with a wide variety of groups across the college to review the scan information and identify our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (i.e. SWOT analysis).

Once the SWOT analysis has been completed, the Faculties and the Student Development Department will be asked to reflect on the information gathered to date and assist with identification of the key planning themes that will constitute the framework of the plan. These themes will be used to guide each of the Faculties and the Student Development Department in identifying the academic initiatives and program and/or course development activities that need to be addressed throughout the period of 2009/10 to 2011/12.

Last spring when the Campus 2020 Report was released the Ministry of Advanced Education indicated that we would know by September which of the report recommendations the Ministry planned to support. We have now been told that this information will not be made available until March. Given this delay, we have changed our proposed timeline for development of a new Academic Plan. Originally we planned to complete the new Academic Plan by the end of June 2008. We are now planning on completing it by the end of December 2008 and submitting it to the Board for approval in January 2009.

*Jan Lindsay
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